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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/720,717
Applicant(s): Roe, et al.
Filed: 11/24/2003
Art Unit: 2855
Examiner: Corey D. Mack
Title: LOADING DEVICE FOR NON-DESTRUCTIVE
INSPECTION OF COMPOSITE STRUCTURES

Confirmation No.: 5400

Docket No.: 038190/269746
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
37 C.F.R. § 1.111

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 21, 2005. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for a timely and thorough review of the above-referenced patent application. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 10-16 have been allowed and confirming that Claims 2-5 define allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have not amended the remaining claims, as Applicants believe the claims as currently presented are patentable over the cited references. In light of the remarks below, Applicants respectfully submit that the all of the claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Peppel

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 8, 9, 17, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,945,607 to Peppel et al. ("the Peppel '607 patent"). The Office Action alleges that the Peppel '607 patent discloses every element and limitation found in the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections.